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STATINTL

LBJ Orders China Study

The President Seeks to Learn Course Of Red China Once Mao Is Gone

By Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

ALTHOUGH LIBERAL critics of President Johnson's foreign policy complain that his China policy is frozen, he ordered a secret top-level study of the problem as early as last summer.

Long before the Vietnam war kicked up liberal demands for a policy change, Mr. Johnson set the study in motion with a formal directive signed by Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Defense Secretary Robert McNamara. It asked for answers to this question: During the next ten years, what will Communist China be doing and how are relations between the United States and China likely to change?

LABELLED "top secret," the China project is tapping the opinions of China experts in the universities and in all the United States embassies in Asia and Communist-bloc countries. So far, it has produced one classified interim report.

The President's decision to put his influence behind the study was keyed to this assumption: the regime of Mao Tse-tung and his veterans of the "long march" during the Chinese civil war 30 years ago is about to end. Will there then be a basic change

in Chinese foreign policy? Is war with China unlikely, possible, probable or inevitable as that vast land moves into a new mold?

The study team is deep into several specific questions, such as the purge of the intellectuals, the anxiety of the military leadership, the integrity of the "cadre system" (political agents who tell the people how and what to think) and the meaning of the Peking-Moscow split.

Dodd Barred

SEN. THOMAS J. DODD (D-Conn.), embroiled in charges involving fund-raising dinners, has been all but barred from the White House.

President Johnson was the speaker at two Dodd fund-raising dinners. He has told intimates that he assumed the money raised was earmarked for Dodd's actual campaign expenditures, not to meet the Senator's between-campaign obligations. Otherwise, he would never have agreed to appear.

Key assistants of the President have been advised not to involve themselves in Dodd's troubles.

Thus, Dodd lacks not only the public support of the White House in his deepening difficulties but also the President's personal support, though he had been one of Mr. Johnson's most faithful allies in the Senate.

Chaffee and Friends

A MAJOR REASON why Gov. John Chaffee of Rhode Island is running for another term as Governor, instead of for the United States Senate as many Republicans had hoped, lies in the wishes of his Democratic supporters.

Chaffee is one of the Republican Party's brightest young liberals. However, in overwhelmingly Democratic Rhode Island, he needs substantial Democratic backing. He got it in November, 1964, when he won a landslide reelection victory in the face of the Goldwater debacle throughout New England.

Chaffee was all set to run this year against Democratic Sen. Claiborne Pell, but his Democratic supporters laid down the law. They told Chaffee he would get their backing for another term as Governor, but not against Pell.